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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 A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY AND ADVANCED DETERMINATION
OF PRUDENCE FOR THE 150 MW MERRICOURT 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 a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Advanced Determination of Prudence to construct, own and operate a 150 MW wind project in the counties of McIntosh and Dickey, North Dakota. We anticipate construction of the Merricourt Wind Project to begin in late 2010 with commercial operation targeted for December 2011.

We have partnered with enXco Development Corp. 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 timing of this filing is driven by our contractual commitments with enXco to begin the regulatory processes as soon as possible.

The project will consist of one hundred 1.5 MW General Electric wind turbines and structures, a 34.5 kV electrical gathering system and collector substation and a 230 kV radial line from the project substation line connecting to Montana Dakotas Wishek – Ellendale 230 kV line. Secondary components of the project are planned to include an

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Application for Advance Determination of Prudence -
150 Mw Merricourt Wind Project

Northern States Power Company

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O&M building, a permanent meteorological tower and access roads as necessary for O&M of the facilities.

We believe the Merricourt Wind Project meets the statutory standards for need as outlined by Commission policy. It does not involve any extension of existing service territory nor does it duplicate facilities. The 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.

We believe the project also 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.

We have combined our CPCN and ADP filings since much of the information provided was judged applicable to both Commission decisions. We look forward to the Commission's guidance concerning how best to proceed procedurally for each.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James R. Alders". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

James R. Alders
Director, Regulatory Administration

Enclosures
cc: Service List