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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

January 30, 2008

–VIA E-MAIL & FEDERAL EXPRESS–

Mr. Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: CASE NO. PU-08-907: 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-08-908: IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION, FOR AN ADVANCED DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE – 150 MW MERRICOURT WIND PROJECT APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Enclosed for filing is an original and seven (7) copies of the Application for Trade Secret Protection of Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (“Xcel Energy” or the Company”) in the captioned matters.

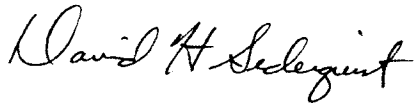
The enclosed contains cost information, requested by the Commission staff for the above-referenced projects, as well as costs for purchased energy. We believe that disclosure of this information will provide economic value to potential vendors, contractors and suppliers and could result in higher costs for Xcel Energy’s customers if this information is disclosed.

Mr. Darrell Nitschke
January 30, 2009
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As a result, we believe it is important that Xcel Energy's request for trade secret protection be granted in order that the Company can minimize costs to its customers. We look forward to working with the Commission to answer any questions they may have in granting this determination.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David H. Sederquist".

DAVID H. SEDERQUIST
SR. CONSULTANT, REGULATION & FINANCE

Enclosures

cc Michael R. Diller
Christopher B. Clark

**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-08-907

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF NORTHERN STATES POWER
COMPANY, A MINNESOTA
CORPORATION, FOR AN ADVANCED
DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE – 150
MW MERRICOURT WIND PROJECT
APPLICATION

CASE No. PU-08-908

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 Section 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 applications 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, requested by the North Dakota Public Service Commission staff for the above-referenced projects as well as costs for purchased energy.

- 2. An 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, the Company's competitors may use such information against the interests of Xcel Energy in the future.

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

The confidentiality of this information has been maintained by Xcel Energy. 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 and the Merricourt 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 all 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 Xcel Energy purchases 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.

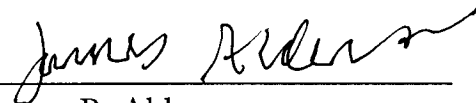
- 6. A description of the efforts used to maintain the secrecy of the information.**

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 30th day of January 2009.

Northern States Power Company,
a Minnesota corporation

By 

James R. Alders
Director, Regulatory

Administration

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I, Josie L. Oxley, hereby certify that I have this day served copies of the foregoing document on Darrell Nitschke with the North Dakota Public Service Commission by e-mail and by Federal Express pick up at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

DOCKET NO. PU-08-907 & PU-08-908

APPLICANT'S APPLICATION FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

Dated this 30th day of January 2009.

/s/  _____

Josie L. Oxley
Administrative Assistant