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DEC 23 2010

December 22, 2010

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**VIA EMAIL AND UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL DELIVERY**

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

**Re: Otter Tail Power Company  
Advance Determination of Prudence -  
CapX2020 Group 1 Application  
Case No. PU-09-676**

**Northern States Power Company  
Advance Determination of Prudence -  
CapX2020 Group 1 Application  
Case No. PU-09-678**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

In compliance with ordering clause 7 in the Commission's October 6, 2010 Order Adopting Settlement in the above referenced matters, Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation ("Xcel Energy"), and Otter Tail Power Company, ("Otter Tail" and collectively with Xcel Energy, "Applicants") provide the following:

Darrell Nitschke, Executive Director  
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The CapX Bemidji project started the tree clearing process on December 17, 2010, during which utility personnel were in the field to begin the first steps in the construction of the line. The actual clearing of trees is scheduled to start January 10, 2011.

Respectfully,

/s/ James R. Alders  
James R. Alders  
Director of Regulatory Administration  
Xcel Energy Services Inc. on behalf of  
Northern States Power Company

/s/ Dean Pawlowski  
Dean Pawlowski  
Principal Engineer  
Otter Tail Power Company