

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

**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**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

**September 20, 2011**

On October 5, 2009, Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy) and Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) each filed an application for advance determination of prudence for each applicant's respective participation and ownership in the following three high voltage transmission line projects:

- A 250-mile long, 345 kV transmission line between Fargo, North Dakota and the northwest quadrant of the Twin Cities in Minnesota (the Fargo Project).
- A 200-mile long, 345 kV transmission line between eastern South Dakota and the southeast Quadrant of the Twin Cities in Minnesota (the Brookings Project).
- A 68-mile long, 230 kV transmission line between Bemidji, Minnesota and Grand Rapids, Minnesota (the Bemidji Project).

Xcel Energy's October 5, 2009, application also requested an advance determination of prudence for a 150-mile long, 345 kV transmission line between La Crosse, Wisconsin and the southeast Twin Cities area in Minnesota and two associated 161 kV lines in the Rochester, Minnesota area (the La Crosse Project).

On October 6, 2011, the Commission granted a conditional advance determination of prudence for Otter Tail's investment in and construction of the Fargo, Brookings and Bemidji Projects and granted advance determination of prudence for Xcel Energy's investment in and construction of the Fargo, Brookings, Bemidji, and La Crosse Projects. The Commission ordered that Otter Tail and Xcel Energy (Applicants) make a filing providing additional information on the resolution of cost allocation issues relevant to the Brookings Project, including the impact on North Dakota. The Commission also ordered that Applicants make a filing evidencing the continued

prudence of the Brookings Project and seeking Commission confirmation of continued prudence of the Project prior to Applicants executing a legally binding investment commitment for the major procurement and construction of the Brookings Project.

On April 29, 2011, Applicants made a compliance filing with the Commission relevant to the Brookings Project cost allocation issues and also provided evidence supporting the continued prudence of the Brookings Project. Applicants seek Commission confirmation of continued prudence of the Brookings Project.

On July 25, 2011, a hearing was held in the Commission Hearing Room at the State Capitol in Bismarck, North Dakota.

On August 23, Applicants filed with the Commission an executed Settlement Agreement on Continued Prudence between Applicants and Advocacy Staff for Case No. PU-09-676 and Case No. PU-09-678.


The Commission will hold a **consolidated public hearing** for consideration of the Settlement Agreement on Continued Prudence beginning **October 26, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. CDT** in the **Commission hearing room, State Capitol, 12th Floor, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505**. The issue to be considered in this matter is whether the Settlement Agreement should be approved and adopted by the Commission for confirmation of the continued prudence of Applicant's Brookings Project.

For more information or a copy of the Settlement Agreement, contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400 or 877-245-6685 (toll free in North Dakota), or Relay North Dakota 1-800-366-6888 TTY.

If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or Braille materials, please notify the Commission at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

  
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