

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Northern States Power Company
2011 Electric Rate Increase
Application

PU-10-657

RECEIVED

OAH File No. 20110014

APR 13 2011

Northern States Power Company
2012 Electric Rate Increase
Application

PU-11-55

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

PREHEARING CONFERENCE SUMMARY AND ORDER

A prehearing conference on the two applications was held on April 12, 2011, by telephone conference. It was attended by the Hearing Officer, Matthew Loftus and Deb Paulson for the Applicant, Illona Jeffcoat-Sacco as Commission Advisory Counsel, Mark Gruman as Commission Staff Counsel, Mitchell Armstrong as Commission Advocacy Staff and Chris Marohl, Commission Staff.

The Hearing Officer noted that there are two separate applications by Northern States Power Company and that consolidation appears to be appropriate. The Applicant for each requested and there was agreement by all counsel that the two applications should be consolidated for hearing and decision. The Hearing Officer recommends that the Commission consolidate the two applications by Commission motion and order.

The Hearing Officer noted that there is a June 10, 2011, deadline for intervention filings. It was noted that there have been no interventions filed to date.

Counsel discussed discovery and indicated that they have agreed to a 10 day turn around for discovery requests and that discovery requests may be made and responded to electronically.

Counsel have agreed to a June 23, 2011, deadline for the filing of Staff pre-filed testimony. Interveners testimony must also be pre-filed by that date unless an extension is requested. Interveners must also complete discovery prior to June 23, 2011, unless an extension is requested. Counsel have also agreed to a July 25, 2011, deadline for the filing of Applicant pre-filed testimony. Additionally, all parties, including interveners, must file a summary witness list and a summary exhibit list by July 25, 2011. If a list contains an expert witness, the list must also briefly state the subject matter on which the expert is expected to testify, the substance of the facts and opinions to which the expert is expected to testify, and a summary of the grounds for each opinion.

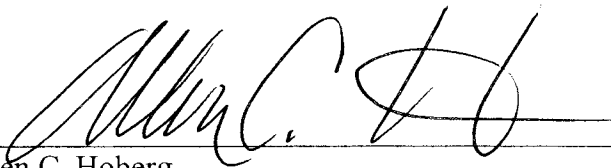
The hearing is expected to last four days. The Commission will record the hearing by digital, electronic means and arrangements for a transcript or a CD of the recording may be made with the Commission at the close of the hearing. The Commission's electronic recording is the official recording (record) of the hearing unless the Commission determines otherwise upon agreement of the parties. A party may make arrangements to have a court reporter record and transcribe the hearing but such arrangements must be made by the party, as soon as possible, and the party must notify the Commission that such arrangements have been made.

Trade secret matters will be discussed by counsel for the parties and the Hearing Officer's participation invoked, as necessary, to issue confidentiality orders.

At the close of the hearing, it is likely that closing briefs and proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, as well as a proposed final order will be requested of counsel for the Applicant and Commission Advocacy Counsel.

Dated at Bismarck, North Dakota, this 17th day of April, 2011.

State of North Dakota
Public Service Commission

By: 
Allen C. Hoberg
Administrative Law Judge
Hearing Officer
Office of Administrative Hearings
2911 North 14th Street – Suite 303
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503
Telephone: (701) 328-3200

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTIFICATION: *A party shall promptly notify the Public Service Commission in writing if the party or a witness to be called by the party has a disability which will require auxiliary aids or services at the hearing so that the Commission can make appropriate accommodation prior to the hearing. Any request for an interpreter must also be made in writing to the Public Service Commission. Any request for aids, services, or an interpreter should be as specific as possible about what is required by the party or witness. Also, please send a copy of the notice or request to the administrative law judge.*

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the **PREHEARING CONFERENCE SUMMARY AND ORDER** were mailed, regular mail, on the 12 day of April 2011, to:

Matt Loftus
Assistant General Counsel
Xcel Energy Services, Inc.
414 Nicollet Mall, 5th Floor
Minneapolis, MN 55401

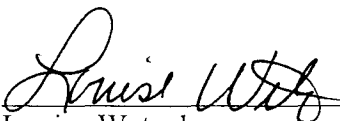
Mitchell Armstrong
Smith Bakke
P.O. Box 460
Bismarck, ND 58502-0460

and that a true and correct copy of the above documents was mailed, inside mail, at the State Capitol, on the 12 day of April 2011, to:

Illona Jeffcoat-Sacco
Executive Secretary
Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Mark Gruman
Legal Counsel
Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
Allen C. Hoberg, Administrative Law Judge


Louise Wetzel