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November 16, 2011

NOV 16 2011

Laura McCarten
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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Via Electronic and
U.S. Mail

Chairman Tony Clark
Commissioner Kevin Cramer
Commissioner Brian P. Kalk
North Dakota Public Service Commission
Department 408
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: November 14 Fargo Area Transmission Level Outage

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to inform you of the steps we are taking with respect to the significant outage our Fargo customers experienced on Monday, November 14, 2011. First, I'd like to say that we sincerely regret that this outage occurred, and this issue has the full attention of our senior management.

As you know, this outage affected over 47,000 customers in the Fargo/West Fargo area, from 12:21 pm to 12:54 pm (33 minutes). The outage was related to a transmission-level event, that happened at a time when two of the three transmission sources serving the Fargo area were out of service in order to safely conduct system work.

Monday afternoon we held a conference call with Commission staff where our Vice President of Transmission, Teresa Mogensen, conveyed what we knew at that time. She stated that we are placing a high priority on investigating this outage and taking the appropriate follow-up actions. We are conducting a thorough review to understand exactly what happened and why, and what steps we may need to take to address the cause and contributing factors to this outage.

We are working to complete our review and file a report with your office by Friday, December 2. If the Commission so desires, we are available to meet with the Commission and staff to discuss our findings and any follow-up actions.

In closing, I'd like to reiterate that we sincerely regret that this outage occurred. Please feel free to contact me at (612) 330-5723 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

cc Scott Sheldon

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Letter re Nov. 14, 2011 Fargo outage
Northern States Power Company
Laura McCarten