



2302 Great N. Drive
Fargo, North Dakota 58402
(701) 241-8632
dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.com

April 13, 2012

VIA ELECTRONIC
AND U.S. MAIL

Darrell Nitschke, Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
Department 408
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: **XCEL ENERGY UNDERGROUND CABLE OUTAGE REPORT**
CASE NOS. PU-10-657, PU-11-55

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Pursuant to the terms of the approved Settlement Agreement in our recently completed electric rate proceeding (Case Nos. PU-10-657 and PU-11-55), I hereby submit our summary of underground residential distribution (“URD”) cable failures for the first quarter, 2012.

As you will note on page 1, there were seven URD cable failures in our North Dakota system during January through March, none of which qualified for replacement under our cable replacement guidelines. I have attached these guidelines to the report for your reference, on page 2.

I have also included in this submittal as page 3 a summary of the two feeder level outages that occurred during the first quarter. As stipulated in our Settlement Agreement, we notified the Commission Staff of these events as they occurred, but they are summarized again here for your convenience.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you have about the information provided. Thank you.

Sincerely,

DAVID SEDERQUIST
SR. REGULATORY CONSULTANT

cc: Jerry Lein

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Summary of underground residential distribution cable failures for 1st quarter 2012
Northern States Power Company
David Sederquist

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Summary of underground residential distribution cable failures for 1st quarter 2012
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Xcel Energy - North Dakota Electric
2012 URD Cable Outage, Review, and Replacement Summary

(Compliance Report - Case Nos. PU-10-657, PU-11-55)

#	Date of Cable Failure	Outage Duration	Service Area	Customers Impacted	Feeder Serving Area	Date of Engineering Review ¹	Meets Criteria to Replace? ²	Footage Replaced	Scope of Replacement ³	Date of Work Order	Date Project Started	Date Project Completed
1	Jan-09 7:40 PM	5:23	Grand Forks	120	NOR031	na	No	-	-	-	-	-
2	Jan-13 11:58 AM	2:44	Minot	13	SOR062	na	No	-	-	-	-	-
3	Jan-31 7:16 PM	4:30	Fargo	148	RED232	na	No	-	-	-	-	-
4	Feb-20 9:55 AM	1:36	Fargo	2	CAS093	na	No	-	-	-	-	-
5	Feb-23 4:14 PM	2:51	Fargo	8	CAS081	na	No	-	-	-	-	-
6	Mar-12 5:06 PM	2:20	Fargo	82	RED232	na	No	-	-	-	-	-
7	Mar-20 3:10 AM	4:49	Minot	91	SOR062	na	No	-	-	-	-	-

Footnotes

¹ The Company's Reliability Management System ("REMS") compiles and processes outage-related information and will flag an engineering review if one of the protective devices (i.e., fuse, breaker, recloser) designed to isolate the fault and protect the system operates *twice within a two year period*. The review will determine if a failed cable qualifies for replacement. A designation of "na" in this column indicates that REMS did not flag such a review for this event.

² See URD Cable Replacement Guidelines summary, attached.

³ Based on our replacement guidelines, cable replacements can involve 1) a single cable segment, 2) multiple cable segments, or 3) all common vintaged cable on a radial, or 4) all common vintaged cable on a half-loop.

Xcel Energy

Underground Residential Distribution Cable Replacement Guidelines

Effective Jan. 1, 2009

Radial Feeds:

- After two cable failures occur anywhere on a given radial within a two year period, any cable segments (on the radial) that have failed within the last two years are replaceable.
- If two thirds (2/3) of the cable segments on the radial qualify for replacement, all segments (on the radial) that are of the *same vintage*, regardless of their failure history are replaceable.

Loop Feeds:

- After two failures occur on any single cable segment within a two year period, the cable segment is replaceable.
- After two failures occur anywhere on the same half of the loop within a two year period, any cable segments that have failed (on the half-loop) within the last two years are replaceable.
- If two thirds (2/3) of the cable segments on the same half of the loop qualify for replacement, all segments (on the half-loop) that are of the *same vintage* are replaceable.

Any Feeder Configuration:

- If a cable replacement project can be shown to reduce the customer minutes out (“CMO”) at a cost of \$0.13 or less per reduced CMO, the cable may be replaced.
- If a repaired cable segment fails again within one week after being placed back into service, the cable is replaceable.

Note: Final decisions regarding the replacement (and/or related scheduling) of failed underground cable is subject to the consideration of circumstances not contemplated in the guidelines shown here.

Xcel Energy - North Dakota Electric
2012 Feeder Level Outages Summary

1st Quarter Summary

#	Date of Outage	Outage Duration	Service Area	Customers Impacted	Feeder	Cause
1	Jan-31 9:00 AM	1:29	Berthold	262	BRT 060	Burned jumper wire on Verendrye Elec Co-op side of feeder
2	Mar-08 9:25 AM	1:11	Mayville	628	MAY 021	Loose connection created high heat, burned jumper