

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Northern States Power Company  
2011 Electric Rate Increase  
Application

**RECEIVED**

PU-10-657

MAY 31 2011

OAH File No. 20110014

Northern States Power Company  
2012 Electric Rate Increase  
Application

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

PU-11-55

**SECOND PREHEARING CONFERENCE SUMMARY AND ORDER**

A second prehearing conference on the two applications was held on May 27, 2011, by telephone conference. It was attended by the Hearing Officer, Matthew Loftus for the Applicant, Illona Jeffcoat-Sacco as Commission Advisory Counsel, and Mark Gruman as Commission Staff Counsel. Kelsey Krapp, a Commission summer intern, was also present but not materially participating.

The Hearing Officer again noted that there are two separate applications by Northern States Power Company and that consolidation appears to be appropriate but that there is some concern about exactly what is meant by consolidation for purposes of these two applications.

After discussion, it was agreed that a motion will be prepared for the Commission to consolidate these two applications and it is anticipated that the Commission will issue an order consolidating these two applications. It is understood and it was agreed at the prehearing conference that consolidation means the following:

1. The Commission will keep a separate docket for each application.
2. There will be one hearing on the two applications.
3. There will be one hearing record for the two applications. All of the evidence presented and admitted at the hearing will be included in the one hearing record.
4. The Commission will issue one order on the two applications based on findings of fact and conclusions of law supporting and explaining that one order.
5. If there is evidence presented at the hearing, and admitted, that is applicable only to one application, its limited applicability will be explained in the findings of fact and conclusions of law.
6. Counsel will make their presentations of evidence and write proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law in such a manner as to explain any limited applicability of evidence.

The hearing officer will explain the meaning of consolidation for the purposes of these two applications in his introduction, background, and hearing procedure explanation at the beginning of the hearing, giving opportunity for parties, including any interveners, to specifically object to consolidation as intended for these matters.

The Hearing Officer recommends that the Commission consolidate the two applications by Commission motion and order, consolidation having the understood meaning as stated in this summary and order. Ms. Jeffcoat-Sacco will prepare the appropriate motion for consolidation for Commission action.

Dated at Bismarck, North Dakota, this 21 day of May, 2011.

State of North Dakota  
Public Service Commission

By: 

Allen C. Hoberg  
Administrative Law Judge  
Hearing Officer  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
2911 North 14<sup>th</sup> 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 **SECOND PREHEARING CONFERENCE SUMMARY AND ORDER** were mailed, regular mail, on the 27 day of May 2011, to:

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

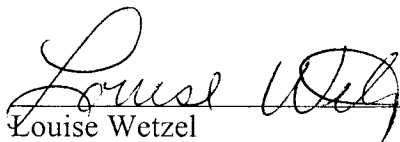
Mitchell Armstrong  
Smith Bakke  
P.O. Box 460  
Bismarck, ND 58502-0460

and that a true and correct copy of the above documents was mailed, inside mail, at the State Capitol, on the 27 day of May 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