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December 20, 2010

— VIA E-MAIL & U.S. MAIL —

Darrell Nitschke
 Executive Secretary and Director of Administration
 North Dakota Public Service Commission
 State Capitol Building
 600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408
 Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**RE: APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION, FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE IN NORTH DAKOTA
 NOTICE OF CHANGE IN RATES FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE
 CASE No. PU-10-_____**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Pursuant to North Dakota Century Code, Section 49-05-05, Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (the "Company" or "Xcel Energy") operating in North Dakota, submits an original and ten (10) copies of a Notice of Change in Rates for Electric Service (the "Notice"). The Notice was also provided electronically to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (the "Commission"). The rate and tariff changes proposed in this Notice would result in an annual increase of base (*i.e.*, non-fuel) electric revenues of \$19.773 million or 12.02 percent, effective for electric service on and after January 19, 2011, or upon final approval, if the rates are suspended and interim rates approved by the Commission. The test year for the proposed increase is 2011. The Company is also requesting a step increase of \$4.226 million or 2.57 percent for a total of \$23.999 million or an overall increase of 14.59 percent effective January 1, 2012.

Also included with this Notice is an Alternative Petition for Interim Rates, should the Commission decide to suspend the Company's Notice. Pursuant to N.D. Cent. Code, §49-05-06, subd. 2, interim rates would be effective February 18, 2011.

see PU-10-657
 Docket No. 2

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 Exhibit 1
 Northern States Power Company

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