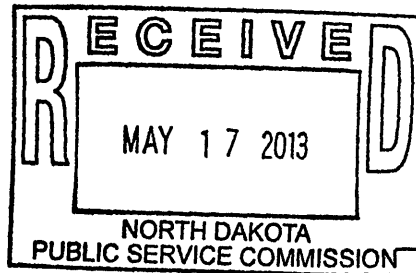




2302 Great N Drive  
Fargo, ND 58102



Via Electronic Filing

May 17, 2013

Darrell Nitschke  
Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
State Capitol, 600 E. Boulevard  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505

RE: SHERBURNE COUNTY GENERATING STATION UNIT 3  
RESTORATION UPDATE (CASE NO. PU-12-12)

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, provides this update to the North Dakota Public Service Commission on restoration activities at the Sherburne County Generating Station Unit.

We previously reported that we expect Unit 3 to return to service on or before September 30, 2013. We continue to make good progress and we now expect a mid-September return to service date. Below we provide a summary of the current status of each major component and additionally provide Attachment A which is a visual summary of our progress to date.

- *Generator Rotor and Stator (77% complete)*

Assembly of the generator continues. Various internal components have been installed and preparations are proceeding to allow the installation of the generator end shields (end bells) when they are returned to site at the end of May. After the end shields are trial fitted and tested, the rotor will be inserted. Consistent with what we reported in our last update, we continue to expect mechanical completion of the generator assembly to occur by the end of July.

- *High Pressure and Reheat Turbines (80% complete)*

Pipe welding to the high pressure and reheat turbines has started. The combined reheat valves have been welded to the reheat turbine and the main steam leads have

been welded to the high pressure turbine. We currently forecast the high pressure and reheat turbines to be substantially assembled by early-August.

- *Low Pressure Turbines (LP-A and LP-B) (83% complete)*

Minor repairs continue (for all parts of the turbine) as additional work is identified when the parts are fully assembled. Final fit up, alignment, and installation of internal components continues. Trial installation of the LP-B rotor was completed to allow final diaphragm adjustments to commence. Assembly of the two low pressure turbines is forecasted to be substantially complete by early-August.

- *Generator Exciter (74% complete)*

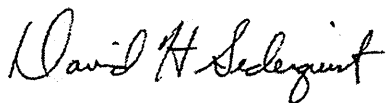
The exciter assembly is nearing completion. The rotor, bearings, and end shields have been trial assembled and aligned. .

- 
- *Balance of Plant Systems and Components*

The balance of plant systems and components, like piping and cable, continue to be installed and restored. We have established a schedule for the walk-down and valve line-up confirmation process for all balance of plant systems and components in preparation for the return to service. That schedule supports the turbine/generator restoration and return to service schedule and those system checks are in-progress.

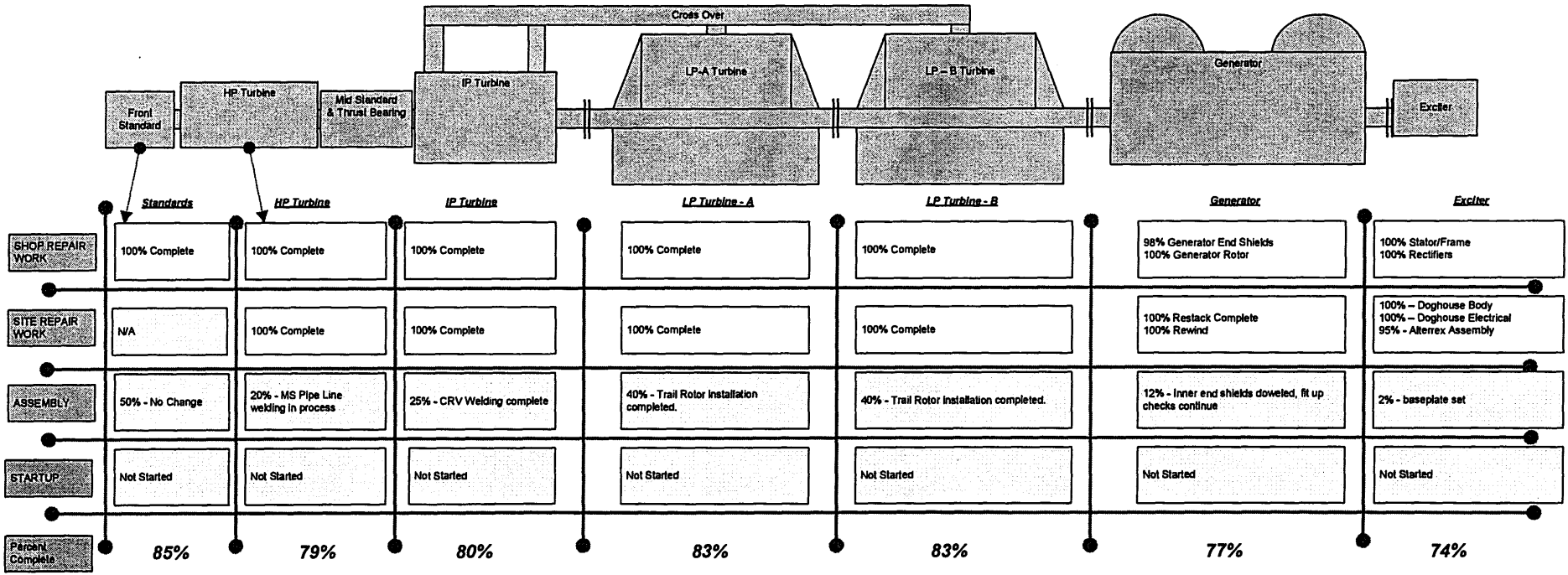
We will continue to provide updates to the Commission, with our next update expected to be filed in early June 2013. Please contact me at [dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.com](mailto:dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.com) or 701-371-5256 if there are any questions regarding this update.

Sincerely,



DAVID H SEDERQUIST  
SR. REGULATORY CONSULTANT  
NORTH DAKOTA REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Xcel Energy  
 SHERCO 3  
 Restoration Project  
 Update: May 14, 2013



Notes:  
 1. BOP Mech/Electrical/Controls/Instrumentation/New Parts orders work not represented here, however, all is on track to support the re-assembly and startup of unit.