

August 14, 2013

—Via Electronic Filing—

Darrell Nitschke  
Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
State Capitol, 600 E. Boulevard  
Bismarck, ND 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 3 after the event that occurred on November 19, 2011.

We continue to make good progress on our restoration efforts and expect Unit 3 to return to service in early September. As noted previously, once the unit is returned to service, there will be a short period of testing (likely a couple of weeks) to complete testing, tuning, and ramping before releasing the unit for dispatch by MISO. 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 (98% complete)*

The generator final alignment and grouting is complete. The flushing of the high purity stator cooling water system is complete and the stator cooling water system has been placed into normal operation. The generator seal oil system has been placed into operation and the generator air test is in progress. The generator is ready for turning gear operation.

- *High Pressure and Reheat Turbines (95% complete)*

The final coupling bolting process and the final lube oil flushing/cleaning are complete. Casing insulation installation is in progress. The high pressure and reheat turbines are expected to be ready for turning gear operation within the next week.

- *Low Pressure Turbines (LP-A and LP-B) (98% complete)*

The final coupling bolting process and the final lube oil flushing/cleaning are complete. The low pressure turbines are expected to be ready for turning gear operation within the next week.

- *Generator Exciter (98% complete)*

The flushing of the cooling water lines to the exciter rectifier units is complete. Grouting of the exciter and final installation of the “doghouse” enclosure are complete.<sup>1</sup>

- *Balance of Plant Systems and Components*

The balance of plant systems and components, like piping, cable, and instruments continue to be installed and turned over to the startup team for final commissioning and initial operation. The startup team continues to check the wiring, instrumentation, and control systems and is flushing various piping systems. We have started placing the balance of plant systems into operation. We currently forecast the turbine generator will be placed into turning gear operation within the next week, and will be ready for steam the following week.

We will continue to provide updates to the Commission, with our next update expected to be filed in August 2013. Please contact me at [dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.com](mailto:dave.sederquist@xcelenergy.com) or (701) 241-8632 if there are any questions regarding this update.

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<sup>1</sup> The “doghouse” is a common industry term describing the protective metal enclosure surrounding the generator.

Sincerely,

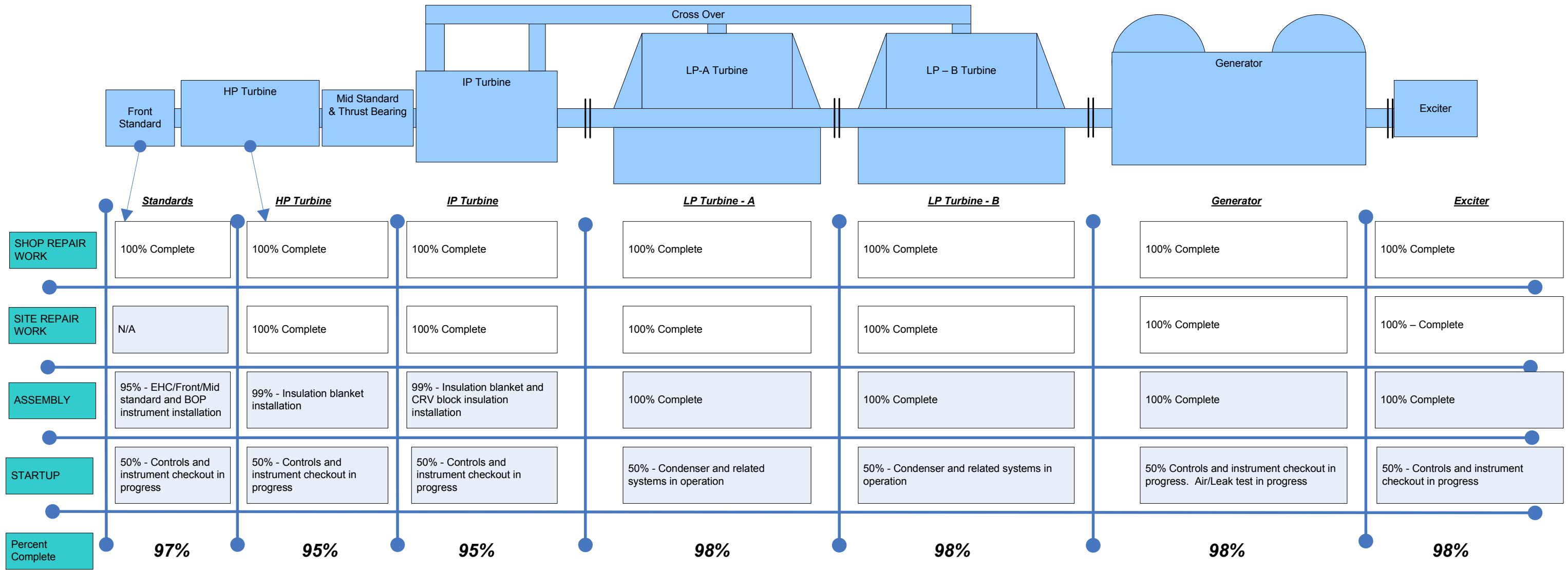
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David H. Sederquist". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

DAVID SEDERQUIST  
SR. REGULATORY CONSULTANT

cc: Sara Cardwell

Enclosures

Xcel Energy  
 SHERCO 3  
 Restoration Project  
 Update: August 13, 2013



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