



2302 Great N. Drive
Fargo, ND 58102
701-241-8632

October 11, 2013

—Via Electronic Filing and U.S. Mail—

Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505

RE: SHERCO 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.

As we noted in our last updates, the Sherco 3 restoration work has been completed. We synchronized to the grid on September 4, 2013 following a series of successful initial return-to-service tests. Sherco 3 operated at 240 MWs until it was taken off-line on September 7, 2013 to address post-restoration items including change-out of the fine-mesh screens that protect the turbine from small particulate damage when the unit initially starts-up.

We have completed the outage to address the maintenance items and replace a fine-mesh screen on one turbine valve. Sherco 3 returned to service again on Thursday, October 10, 2013 and is presently at 325 MWs. We will continue testing at various load levels throughout the next several days and anticipate releasing the unit for full economic dispatch on or around Thursday October 17, 2013.

We are continuing to work on the release of our root cause analysis report with our insurance provider. We will continue to provide updates to the Commission.

43 **PU-12-12** Filed: 10/11/2013 Pages: 2
**Sherburne County Generating Station Unit 3
restoration update**

Northern States Power Company

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this update.

Sincerely,

/s/

DAVE SEDERQUIST
SR. REGULATORY CONSULTANT

Enclosures
c: Service List

