

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Northern States Power Company
230 kV Peace Garden Switching Station Tran Line
Public Convenience and Necessity Electric**

Case No. PU-12-39

ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE

March 21, 2012

On January 12, 2012, Northern States Power Company (NSP) filed an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate a proposed 230 kV Peace Garden Switching Station and approximately 300 feet of 230 kV electric transmission line to interconnect Sequoia Energy U.S. Inc.'s (Sequoia) proposed Border Winds Energy Project to the existing 230 kV Rugby-to-Glenboro transmission line in Rolette County, North Dakota.

On February 1, 2012 the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, which provided until March 7, 2012 for receiving written comments or hearing requests. No response was received. The notice identified the following issues to be considered:

1. Whether public convenience and necessity will be served by construction and operation of the facilities.
2. Whether the applicants are fit, willing and able to provide service.

NSP is a Minnesota corporation duly authorized to conduct business in North Dakota as a public utility subject to the jurisdiction and regulation of this Commission. NSP is an experienced regional generation, transmission and distribution utility with the expertise and resources to construct the 230 kV Peace Garden Switching Station and transmission line. NSP is fit, willing and able to provide service.

NSP owns the interconnecting segment of transmission line and is obligated to provide access to the transmission system by constructing facilities necessary for interconnection of new or incremental generation. In November 2011 NSP entered into a Generation Interconnection Agreement (GIA) with Sequoia and the Midwest Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) under which NSP is required to construct the proposed 230 kV Peace Garden Switching Station and approximately 300 feet of 230 kV electric transmission line necessary to interconnect the Border Winds Project. The costs for these interconnection facilities will be paid for by Sequoia under the GIA. Public convenience and necessity will be served by construction and operation of the facilities.

Order

The Commission Orders:

1. The application of Northern States Power Company for a certificate of public convenience and necessity is GRANTED.

2. Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 5465 is issued to Northern States Power Company to construct and operate the 230 kV Peace Garden Switching Station and approximately 300 feet of 230 kV electric transmission line in Rolette County, North Dakota.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Kevin Cramer
Commissioner


Tony Clark
Chairman


Brian P. Kalk
Commissioner

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

Certificate Number 5465

This is to certify that public convenience and necessity require, and permission is granted for Northern States Power Company to construct and operate a 230 kV Peace Garden Switching Station and approximately 300 feet of transmission line necessary to interconnect the Border Winds Energy Project to the existing Rugby-to-Glenboro 230 kV transmission line in Rolette County, North Dakota.

This certificate is issued in accordance with the Order of this Commission dated March 21, 2012 in Case No. PU-12-39, and is subject to the conditions and limitations noted in the Order.

This certificate is conditioned upon Northern States Power Company securing the franchise or other authority of the proper municipal or other public authority for the exercise of these rights and privileges.

ATTEST:

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Executive Secretary


Commissioner