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January 31, 2012

- VIA E-MAIL & FEDERAL EXPRESS-

Darrell Nitschke, Executive Director
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol Building, Dept 408
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 59505-0480

Re: APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION, FOR AN ADVANCE DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE FOR A POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH GERONIMO WIND ENERGY, LLC
CASE NO. PU-12-_____

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, respectfully submits this application requesting an Advance Determination of Prudence (“ADP”) for a proposed Power Purchase Agreement (“PPA”) to purchase 200 MW of electric energy from Geronimo Wind Energy LLC, generated at their Prairie Rose Wind Project. The Project is located in Rock and Pipestone Counties, Minnesota and will be placed into service by the end of 2012.

The purpose of this ADP filing is to seek a Commission determination that the Prairie Rose PPA is a reasonable and prudent resource addition. Included with this application are both the filing fee of \$125,000 and a signed affidavit supporting the truthfulness of our statements.

We look forward to working with the Commission in the review of this filing and respectfully request that the Commission approve an ADP for this PPA as set forth in N.D.C.C. § 49-05-16.

Darrell Nitschke, Executive Director

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Sincerely,



DAVID H. SEDERQUIST

SR. CONSULTANT, REGULATION & FINANCE

Enclosures