



OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
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Bismarck, North Dakota 58503

Allen C. Hoberg
DIRECTOR

March 20, 2012

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RECEIVED

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Illona Jeffcoat-Sacco
General Counsel
Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Ms. Jeffcoat-Sacco:

Thank you for your March 19, 2012, request of the designation of an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings to conduct a hearing in the matter of Northern States Power – Geronimo Wind, PU-12-59. I hereby designate Patrick J. Ward to be assigned as a contract administrative law judge to conduct the hearing in regard to this matter. Because the contract administrative law judge will not be making recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law, or issuing a recommended order, the person or persons who will be making the final administrative decision in regard to this matter (*i.e.*, the commission) must be in attendance at the hearing.

Please send all additional relevant documents (correspondence, and other pleadings and documents) to the designated contract administrative law judge in care of Zuger Kirmis & Smith, P O Box 1695, Bismarck, ND 58502-1695 Please contact the contract administrative law judge prior to scheduling the hearing. Because the contract administrative law judge is requested to conduct the hearing only, the agency must give proper notice of the hearing.

Your request has been assigned OAH File No. 20120129. Please include this number on all future documents and correspondence filed for this matter with the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Sincerely,

Allen C. Hoberg
Director

ACH/lmw

cc: Matt Loftus, Xcel Energy
Patrick J. Ward, Administrative Law Judge