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JUL 17 2012

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

July 16, 2012

John Hamre  
Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: Northern States Power Cooperative – Geronimo Wind Application  
Case No. PU-12-59

Dear Mr. Hamre:

Enclosed for your file is the original Scheduling Order After Prehearing Telephone Conference along with an Affidavit of Mailing with regard to the above matter.

Sincerely,



Val Leapaldt  
Secretary to Patrick J. Ward

Enclosure

c: Matt Loftus  
Zev Simpser  
Mark Gruman

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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation

Case No. PU-12-59

In the Matter of an Application for Advance Determination of Prudence  
for Power Purchase Agreement with Geronimo Wind Energy, LLC

**SCHEDULING ORDER AFTER PREHEARING TELEPHONE CONFERENCE**

This matter came on for an informal prehearing scheduling conference on July 11, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. The parties participated by either appearing in person at the Public Service Commission, North Dakota State Capitol, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bismarck, North Dakota, or by telephone bridge.

The hearing was attended by counsel for the Public Service Commission, Mark Gruman; Chris Marohl, Lead Analyst, and Richard Hahn, LaCapra Associates, Boston, Massachusetts, Consultants. Northern States Power Company (NSP) was represented by attorney Matthew Loftus, Xcel Energy Services Inc.; attorney Zev Simpser, Briggs & Morgan Law Firm, Minneapolis, MN, and by David Sederquist and Laura McCarten of NSP.

The parties discussed a potential hearing date and timelines and issues which needed to be addressed in order to meet the potential hearing date. It was agreed that the optimal time for the hearing would be the week of October 22-26, 2012, and that the hearing would be set for 3 days.

The following timelines and deadlines were agreed upon by the parties:

1. Commission staff will submit data and further requests to NSP between July 10 and August 3, 2012.

2. NSP will have 14 calendar days to respond to data requests from Commission staff, the latest date for response being August 17, 2012. 3. Commission staff shall file pre-filed testimony by August 31, 2012.

4. NSP shall submit data requests to Commission staff in response to pre-filed testimony by September 14, 2012.

5. The Commission staff will have 14 calendar days to respond to data requests from NSP, the latest date for response being September 28, 2012.

6. To the extent either NSP or the Commission staff believe responses to data requests will take longer than 14 calendar days, the responding party will contact the requesting party and provide a good faith estimate of when a response will be provided.

7. A settlement conference will be held on September 18, 2012, in an attempt to resolve or narrow the issues for hearing.

8. NSP rebuttal testimony, if any, shall be filed no later than October 2, 2012.

9. Expert witness disclosures, if any, are to be arranged between the parties by agreement.

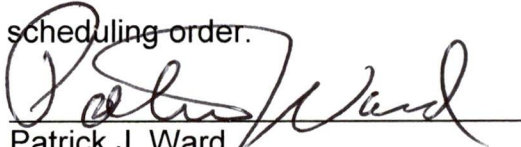
10. The anticipated length of the hearing is 2-3 days.

11. The hearing date will likely be set between October 22 and October 26, 2012, subject to the availability and approval of the Public Service Commissioners.

12. For purposes of this proceeding, the parties agree that the 7 month statutory timeline pursuant to NDCC § 49-05-16(2) for the Commission to issue an order will begin on June 7, 2012.

13. The hearing in this matter will take place in the Public Service Commission Hearing Room, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota at the time and date set by the Commission pursuant to this agreed scheduling order.

Dated: July 13, 2012

  
Patrick J. Ward  
Administrative Law Judge

