



## OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
2911 North 14th Street - Suite 303  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503

Allen C. Hoberg  
DIRECTOR

March 20, 2012

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

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 21 2012**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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 Company ADP – Manitoba Hydro, PU-12-70. 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. 20120128. 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

12 PU-12-70 Filed: 3/21/2012 Pages: 1  
Letter designating Administrative Law Judge