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RECEIVED

APR 19 2012

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

April 19, 2012

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

RE: Northern States Power Cooperative – Manitoba Hydro Application
Case No. PU-12-70

Dear Mr. Hamre:

Enclosed for your files is the original Order Granting Trade Secret Protection along with an Affidavit of Mailing with regard to the above matter.

Sincerely,



Val Leapaldt
Secretary to Patrick J. Ward

Enclosure

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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Northern States Power Company
Application for Advance Determination of Prudence
Manitoba Hydro Application

Case No. PU-12-70

ORDER GRANTING TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

1. Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation ("Xcel Energy or the "Company") applied for trade secret protection on February 8, 2012, pursuant to N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-01 and requested a protective order in accordance with the provisions of the N.D. Admin. Code.

2. The information identified by their application which may be offered as evidence for the hearing of the captioned case now before the commission includes cost information, contract terms, and other information regarding Purchase Agreements ("PPAs") with Manitoba Hydro, the information for which trade secret protection is sought.

3. Commission staff as required by N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-03 have made a prima facie recommendation that the information is relevant for the hearing of this case and is a trade secret as defined by N.D.C.C. § 47-25.1-01(4).

4. The information for which trade secret protection is sought is "commercial information" as provided in N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4(2)(a), has been kept confidential by both parties to the agreements and would be of advantage to competitors if not protected.

5. If competitors had access to such confidential information, it could adversely affect prices for future contracts all to the ultimate disadvantage of consumers and rate payers.

6. The Hearing Officer has fully reviewed and considered the application and the recommendations of commission staff, and determines both that the information is relevant for the hearing of this case and that the information is a trade secret as defined by N.D.C.C. § 47-25.1-01(4) and entitled to protection pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of N.D.C.C. ch. 47-25.1 and N.D. Admin. Code ch. 69-02-09;

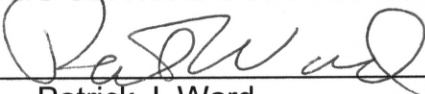
IT IS, THEREFORE,

ORDERED the Company is hereby granted trade secret protection pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of N.D.C.C. ch. 47-25.1 and N.D. Admin. Code ch. 69-02-09 for the information identified by the application; and it is further

ORDERED that this order shall not constitute precedent for a determination of entitlement to trade secret protection for any information upon any subsequent application.

Dated: 4/19, 2012

NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

By: 
Patrick J. Ward
Administrative Law Judge

