

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A MINNESOTA CORPORATION, FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE IN NORTH DAKOTA

CASE No. PU-12-813

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY ADVANCED DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE – COURTENAY WIND PROJECT APPLICATION

CASE No. PU-13-706

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY ADVANCE DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE – ODELL WIND PROJECT APPLICATION

CASE No. PU-13-707

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY ADVANCE DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE – PLEASANT VALLEY WIND PROJECT APPLICATION

CASE No. PU-13-708

NORTHERN STATE POWER COMPANY ADVANCE DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE – BORDER WINDS PROJECT APPLICATION

CASE No. PU-13-742

NORTHERN STATE POWER COMPANY 150 MW BORDER WINDS PROJECT – ROLETTE COUNTY PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

CASE No. PU-13-743

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY ADVANCE DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE – NG GENERATOR APPLICATION

CASE No. PU-13-194

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY RED RIVER VALLEY NG UNITS 1 & 2 – HANKINSON, ND PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

CASE No. PU-13-195

APPLICATION FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

Northern States Power Company (Xcel Energy or Company) respectfully requests the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) enter a trade secret protective order in the above referenced cases pursuant to Chapter 69-02-09 of the

			63	PU-13-708	Filed 01/15/2014	Pages: 3	Application for trade secret protection
	64	PU-13-194	Filed 01/15/2014	Pages: 3			Application for trade secret protection
	63	PU-13-743	Filed 01/15/2014	Pages: 3			Application for trade secret protection
	63	PU-13-706	Filed 01/15/2014	Pages: 3			Application for trade secret protection
70	PU-13-195	Filed 01/15/2014	Pages: 3				Application for trade secret protection
	64	PU-13-742	Filed 01/15/2014	Pages: 3			Application for trade secret protection
	178	PU-12-813	Filed 01/15/2014	Pages: 3			Application for trade secret protection

North Dakota Administrative Code. The purpose of the requested protective order is to protect trade secret and commercial information as defined by N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4 from public disclosure pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18 or any other applicable public disclosure laws.

1. A general description of the nature of the information sought to be protected.

The information for which the Company seeks protection includes detailed forecasted cost and income information which was developed in support of the Comprehensive Settlement in the above captioned Cases. The forecasted cost and income information for which protection is sought accompanies this Application.

The Company states that this information is trade secret because it is information that “(1) derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons that can obtain economic value from its disclosure; and (2) is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain the secrecy of the information,” as provided in N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4(2)(d). The Company further states that this information meets the definition of “trade secret” set forth in N.D.C.C. § 47-25.1-01(4).

2. Explanation of why the information derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to other persons.

The information could have economic value to analysts, investors, and potential investors in the Company. In particular, analysts, investors, and potential investors would have prior knowledge of what the Company’s forecasted investments, expenses and income are for its North Dakota operations without this information having been publicly disclosed or noticed in the normal course. This would allow such analysts, investors or potential investors to make determinations with respect to such information prior to its normal public disclosure. Such a result could be harmful for the Company and other investors who may not have this detailed information.

3. An explanation why the information is not readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons.

The confidentiality of this information has been maintained by Xcel Energy. The information is not disclosed to the public or to persons other than employees or authorized agents who need to know the information to fulfill their responsibilities in

connection with the Company proposal, or to third persons pursuant to nondisclosure agreement to maintain the confidentiality of the information.

Generally, the Company does not disclose this type of detailed information for only a particular jurisdiction. The Company has requested that this type of detailed information be treated as trade secret in all of its regulatory filings and other sharing of this information with governmental entities.

4. A general description of the persons or entities that would obtain economic value from disclosure or use of the information.

The persons or entities that would obtain economic value from disclosure or use of the information include investors and potential investors in the Company, as well as analysts and other entities or persons who regularly review the Company's financial information for investment purposes. Disclosure of the information sought to be protected would provide these persons and entities prior foreknowledge of cost and income information not readily available to the public.

5. A specific description of known competitors and competitor's goods and services that is pertinent to the tariff or rate filing.

See response to No. 4 above.

6. A description of the efforts used to maintain the secrecy of the information.

See response to No. 3 above.

In accordance with Section 69-02-09-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, one copy of the trade secret material is provided in the enclosed sealed envelope which is labeled: **TRADE SECRET – PRIVATE**.

Respectfully submitted this 15th day of January, 2014

Northern States Power Company,

/s/ 

By: David Sederquist
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Northern States Power Company