



OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
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Bismarck, North Dakota 58503

Allen C. Hoberg
DIRECTOR

October 11, 2013

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Ryan Norrell
Legal Counsel
Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



Dear Mr. Norrell:

Thank you for your October 9, 2013, request of the designation of an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings to conduct hearings in the matters of Northern States Power Company, PU-13-194 and PU-13-195. I hereby designate Patrick J. Ward to be assigned as a contract administrative law judge to conduct the hearings in regard to these matters. 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 these matters (*i.e.*, the commission) must be in attendance at the hearing(s).

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(s). Because the contract administrative law judge is requested to conduct the hearings only, the agency must give proper notice of the hearing(s).

Your request has been assigned OAH File Nos. 20130458 (PU-13-194) and 20130459 (PU-13-195). Please include these numbers on all future documents and correspondence filed for these matters with the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Sincerely,

Allen C. Hoberg
Director

ACH/lmw

cc: David Sederquist, Xcel Energy
Patrick J. Ward, Administrative Law Judge

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Letter designating Administrative Law Judge
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