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November 13, 2013



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

RE: Northern States Power Company – Applications for ADP and Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
Case No. PU-13-194 and PU-13-195

Dear Mr. Hamre:

Enclosed for your file is the original Order Granting Trade Secret Protection in the above consolidated cases, along with an Affidavit of Mailing with regard to the above matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Patrick J. Ward'.

Patrick J. Ward

Enclosure

c: David Sederquist, Northern States Power
Ryan Norrell, PSC
Darrell Nitschke, PSC

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Order Granting Trade Secret Protection

Patrick Ward, ALJ - Office of Administrative Hearings

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Order Granting Trade Secret Protection

Patrick Ward, ALJ - Office of Administrative Hearings

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
BEFORE THE
NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
APPLICATION FOR ADVANCE DETERMINATION
OF PRUDENCE FOR THREE NATIONAL GAS
GENERATORS AND FOR A CERTIFICATE OF
PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR
TWO NATURAL GAS GENERATORS AND RED
RIVER VALLEY NG UNITS 1 & 2, HANKINSON,
NORTH DAKOTA

CASE Nos. PU-13-194 & PU-13- 195
OAH Nos. 2013-0458 & 2013-0459

ORDER GRANTING TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

1. Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (“Xcel Energy” or the “Company”), applied for trade secret protection on April 26, 2013, 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 trade secret information identified by their application may be offered as evidence for the hearing regarding the company’s proposal to add three combustion generators in Case No. PU-13-194 and two generators in Case No. PU-13-195, 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 “cost information pertaining to buying and selling of goods and services which has been kept confidential and has not been previously publicly disclosed” as provided in N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.4(2)(a), and could be of unfair advantage to competitors if not protected or

could have economic value to potential suppliers, vendors, or other competitors. The information is not readily ascertainable by other proper means to such competitors, vendors, suppliers, or other persons.

5. If competitors, vendors or other suppliers had access to such confidential information, it could adversely affect prices for future material or services and drive up costs to the ultimate disadvantage of consumers and rate payers. N.D. Cent. Code § 44-04-18.4.

6. This Hearing Officer has fully reviewed and considered the application of Northern States Power and the recommendations of commission staff, and determines that the information is relevant for the hearing of this case, that the information is a trade secret as defined by N.D.C.C. § 47-25.1-01(4), and that the information is 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, all as set forth above;

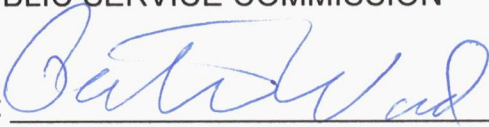
IT IS, THEREFORE,

ORDERED that Northern States Power 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 in this Order; and it is further

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

Dated: November 13th, 2013

NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

By: 
Patrick J. Ward
Administrative Law Judge

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