



414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT
TRADE SECRET DATA EXCISED**

July 26, 2013

- Via Email and Federal Express -

Darrell Nitschke, Executive Director
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol Building, Dept 408
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN ADVANCE DETERMINATION OF
PRUDENCE FOR A 200 MW POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH THE
COURTENAY WIND PROJECT
CASE No. PU-13-_____

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN ADVANCE DETERMINATION OF
PRUDENCE FOR A 200 MW POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH THE
ODELL WIND PROJECT
CASE No. PU-13-_____

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN ADVANCE DETERMINATION OF
PRUDENCE FOR THE 200 MW PLEASANT VALLEY WIND PROJECT
CASE No. PU-13-_____

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, submits to the North Dakota Public Service Commission this Application for approval of three 200 MW wind generation projects. We are presenting our request for all three projects in one application, as agreed to with Commission Staff.

1 PU-13-707 Filed 07/26/2013 Pages: 520
Application for Advance Determination of Prudence
Northern States Power Company
David Sederquist

1 PU-13-708 Filed 07/26/2013 Pages: 520
Application for Advance Determination of Prudence
Northern States Power Company
David Sederquist

1 PU-13-706 Filed 07/26/2013 Pages: 520
Application for Advance Determination of Prudence
Northern States Power Company
David Sederquist

The Company has entered into contracts with Geronimo Energy to purchase electric energy from the *Courtenay* Wind Farm to be located northeast of Jamestown, North Dakota and the *Odell* Wind Farm to be located near Mountain Lake, Minnesota. We have also entered into a contract with RES Americas to develop the *Pleasant Valley* Wind Farm near our Grand Meadow Wind Farm in southeastern Minnesota and, once complete, transfer ownership of the plant to us. Xcel Energy will then own and operate the facility.

The wind generation market has presented us with a unique opportunity to add significant generation that will keep energy prices lower for our customers than otherwise would be the case and at the same time improve the environmental performance of our system. To capture the benefits of the Production Tax Credit, the projects must be substantially started by the end of 2013.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Commission determine, by November 1, 2013, that our proposal to enter into these wind projects is cost-effective and prudent. The Company's Application and supporting testimony contains trade secret information. In accordance with Section 69-02-09-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, an Application for Trade Secret Protection is being provided along with a single copy of the trade secret version of the Application and testimony in a sealed envelope marked **TRADE SECRET-PRIVATE**.

An original and seven copies of the public version of our Application are also being provided, along with the following:

- Direct testimonies of Company Witnesses Laura McCarten and Steven Wishart (public version), supporting the Company's Application;
- Verifications for the testimonies of Ms. McCarten and Mr. Wishart;
- CD containing the public version of the Application, testimonies and verifications, and Application for Trade Secret Protection; and
- Filing fee of \$250,000, an initial amount agreed to through discussions with Commission Staff. It is understood that the Company will submit additional fees - up to the maximum \$525,000 for all three dockets - if it is later deemed necessary by staff to cover the costs to review these projects.

Darrell Nitschke

July 26, 2013

Case Nos. PU-13-____, PU-13-____, PU-13-____

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We look forward to working with the Commission in the review of this filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David H. Sederquist". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

DAVID H. SEDERQUIST

SR. CONSULTANT, REGULATION & FINANCE

Enclosures