



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 59505-0480

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

Darrell Nitschke

July 26, 2013

Case Nos. PU-13-\_\_\_\_, PU-13-\_\_\_\_, PU-13-\_\_\_\_

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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